Meanwhile, the State Government is taking confidence building measures to facilitate smooth return of the migrants.

Scrapping of IMDT Act, 1983

1133. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to scrap Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 which is considered as a hurdle in the process of identifying and deporting foreign nationals;

(b) if so, the details facts of the matter along with changes proposed; if any;

(c) the estimated number of foreign nationals staying illegally in India; and

(d) the details of initiatives taken/proposed to streamline the regulatory mechanism to check the illegal inflow of foreign nationals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Government of Assam has recommended repeal of the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983. The matter is under consideration of Central Government.

(c) It is difficult to speak in terms of any precise numbers, because illegal infil trators enter India surreptitiously and mix with the local population due to their ethnic, linguistic .similarities.. Detection and deportation of illegal infiltrators from this country is a continuous process.

(d) A series of measures have been taken by Government of India to curb problem of infiltration into India. These measures include, intcralia raising of ad ditional battalions of Border Security Force, reducing gaps between the border outposts, fencing and flood lighting along the border, patrolling and surveillance of the coastal area etc.

Taliban Forces in Jammu and Kashmir

1134. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Taliban forces for Afghanistan have entered Jammu and Kashmir in any substantial number;

(b) the identity of other alien elements who have infiltrated into the Kashmir valley, and

(c) whether there is not sufficient evidence of the hand of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency behind such infiltration?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir. No evidence has come to notice in this regard.

(b) Foreign mercenaries infiltrated into J&K mainly include Pakistanis, residents of POK, Afghans, and a few from Sudan, Yemen, Lebanon, Behrain, Egypt, Chcchinia, Bosnia, Algeria and Libya.

(c) No such evidence has come to notice.

Policy Regarding Functioning of Banquet Halls in Delhi

1135. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOL ANKI: Will the Minister of HOME AF FAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government arc contemplating formulation of a policy with regard to the functioning of Banquet halls in Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the absence of such guidelines the Banquet hall on main Pusa Road, New Delhi is flourishing in a big way; and

(c) if so, steps taken by Government to stop the use of Banquet hall on Pusa Road?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The Lt. Governor of the National Capital Territory of Delhi had constituted a study jroup for formulating draft regulations for Banquet Halls in Delhi with a view to provide guidelines for dealing with the

existing ones and to formulate norms for the future. The study group submitted its report in July, 1997 and the same was approved by the Lt. Governor on 16.8.97 for appropriate modification to Master Plan for Dclhi-2001.

(b) and (c) Delhi Police have reported that action has been initiated under the relevant law against the two Banquet Halls functioning at Main Pusa Road, New Delhi and the matter is subjudice.

वंदे मातनम् का गायन

1136.**श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र :** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि **:**

(क) क्या यह सच हैं कि गृह मंत्री जी ने दिनांक 2 नवंबर, 1998 के "पायनियर" में इस आशय का कोई बयान दिया हैं कि वंदे मातरम् का गायन अनिवार्य नहीं होना चाहिए,

(ख) तो क्या किसी राज्य सरकार ने ऐसा किया हैं, और

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की हैं ?

गृह मंत्री (श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी) : (क) यह रिपोर्ट पूरी तरह से ठीक नहीं थी । यह बयान वंदे मारतम को सरकारी आदेश के बजाए स्वेच्छा से अपनाने के पक्ष में था ।

(ख) और (ग) उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य सरकार ने हमें यह सूचित किया हैं कि उनके शिक्षा विभाग ने "कल्प योजना" शुरू करने के लिए 25 जुलाई, 1998 को कुछ अनुदेश जारी किए थे, जिनमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ "वंदे मातरम्" का पाठ करना भी सम्मिलित था । राज्य सरकार ने इस बारे में जारी किए गए आदेश बाद में वापिस ले लिए ।

अल्पसंख्यकों की धार्मिक भावनाओं को भड़काना

1137.**श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र :** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि **:**

(क) क्या यह सच हैं कि पिछले दिनों अल्पसंख्यकों (मुक्लिमों और ईसाईयों) की धार्मिक भावनाओं को भड़काने के लिए सुनियोजित प्रयास किए गए हैं,

(ख) क्या यह भी सच हैं कि ऐसा हिन्दू धर्म की शिक्षा और देवी वंदना को अनिवार्य बनाने के नाम परrc किया जा रहा हैं तथा इससे कानून और व्यवस्था की स्थिति के बिगड़ने की आशंका हैं,

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार ऐसे षड़यंत्रों को नाकाम बनाने हेतु क्या कार्रवाई कर रही हैं ?

गृह मंत्री (श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी) : (क) और (ख) जी नहीं, श्रीमान् ।

(क) प्रश्न नहीं उठता हैं ।

Indo-Brilish Project on Human Rights and Prison Management

1138. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indo-British Project on human rights and prison management;

(b) whether Government plan to improve the present conditions in the prisons; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The British Council Division, New Delhi has undertaken a project on Human Rights and Prison Management in collaboration with the Bureau of Police Research and Development, National Human Rights Commission and Penal Reforms & Justice Association. The project was sponsored by the International Centre for Prison Studies, School of Law, Kings College,

London. The project aims at augmenting prison training at various ranks of prison officers, both at the recruitment and in-service training levels, with special reference to human rights and management system in prisons.

(b) and (c) 'Prisons' is a State subject as per Entry 4 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. It is essentially for the State Governments to take necessary steps to improve the condition of prisons and prisoners. The Central Government, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in this direction, has-been implementing, since 1987, a scheme for modernisation of Prison Administration. Under this scheme, Central assistance of Rs. 101.50 crores has been released to